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Curriculum Process and Connections

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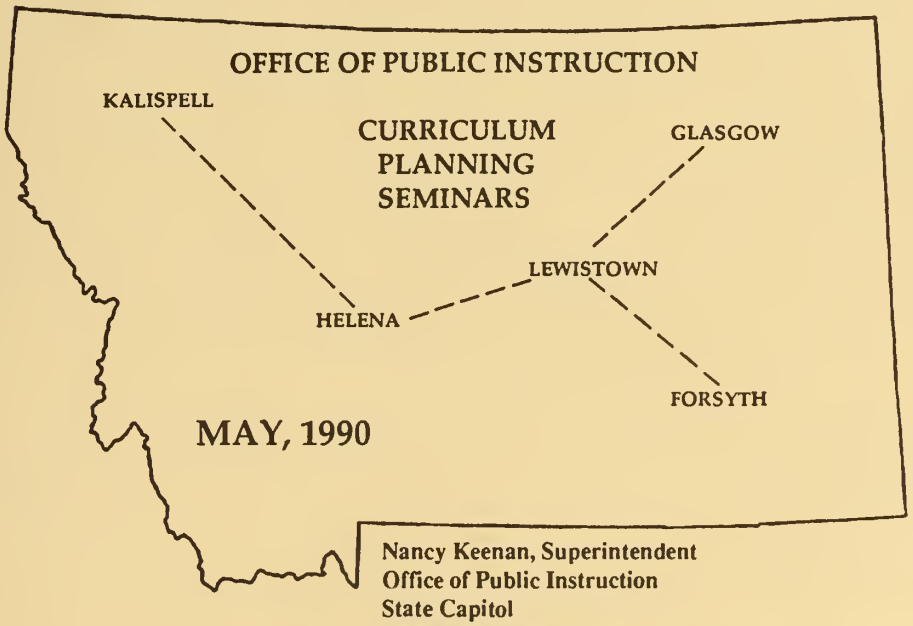
Administrator
Curriculum Assistance Division



Nancy Keenan, Superintendent
Office of Public Instruction
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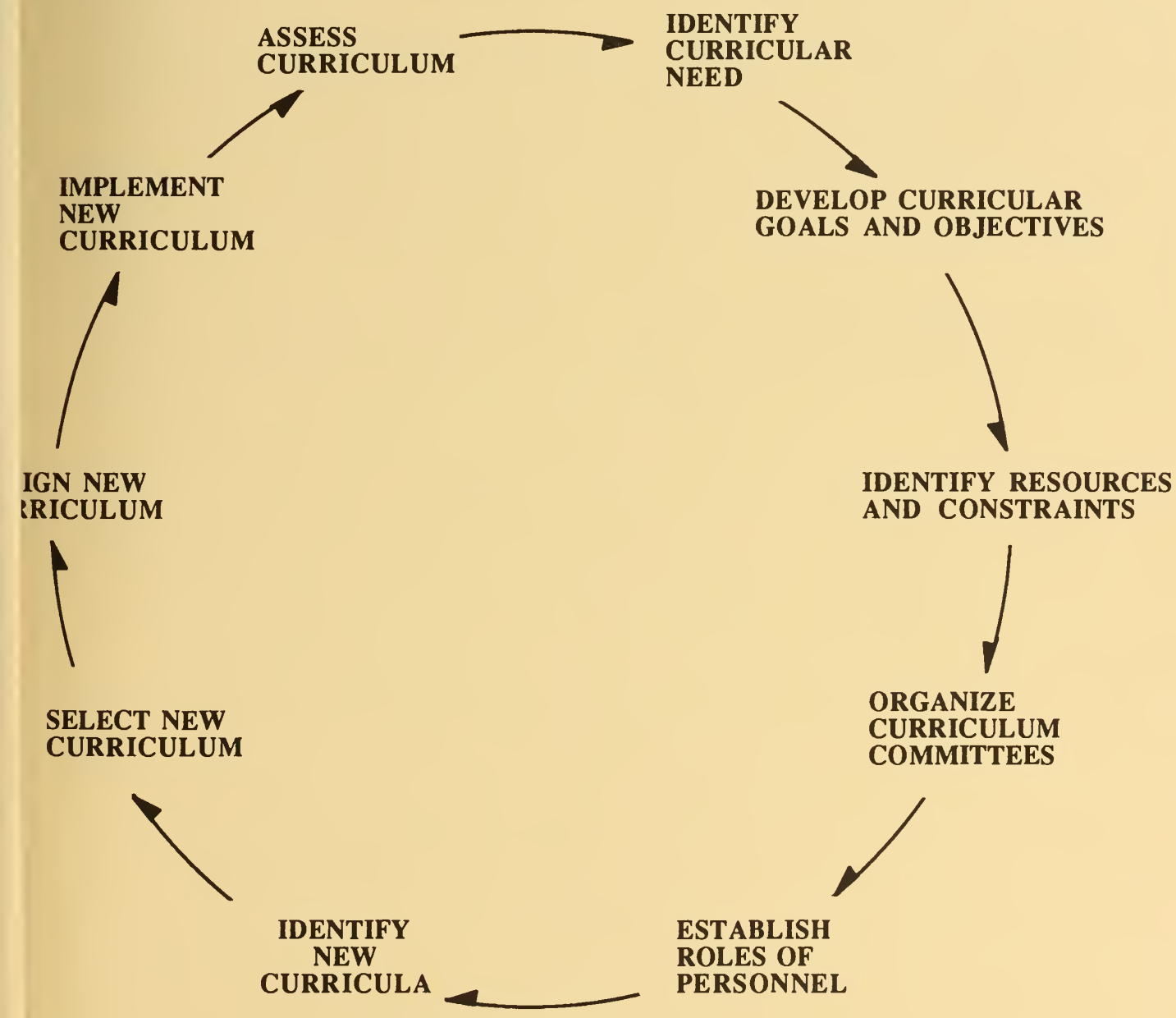
TEN-STEP CURRICULM PLANNING PROCESS MODEL

A curriculum study may or may not include all ten steps and may begin with any one step in the process.



MAKING CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

What Do We Know About Learning?

We know that students taught to understand the interrelationship of knowledge retain longer, make more sense of what they are learning, are able to make multiple applications of knowledge, and are able to examine issues from a number of perspectives.

How Do We Design Curriculum for Making Connections?

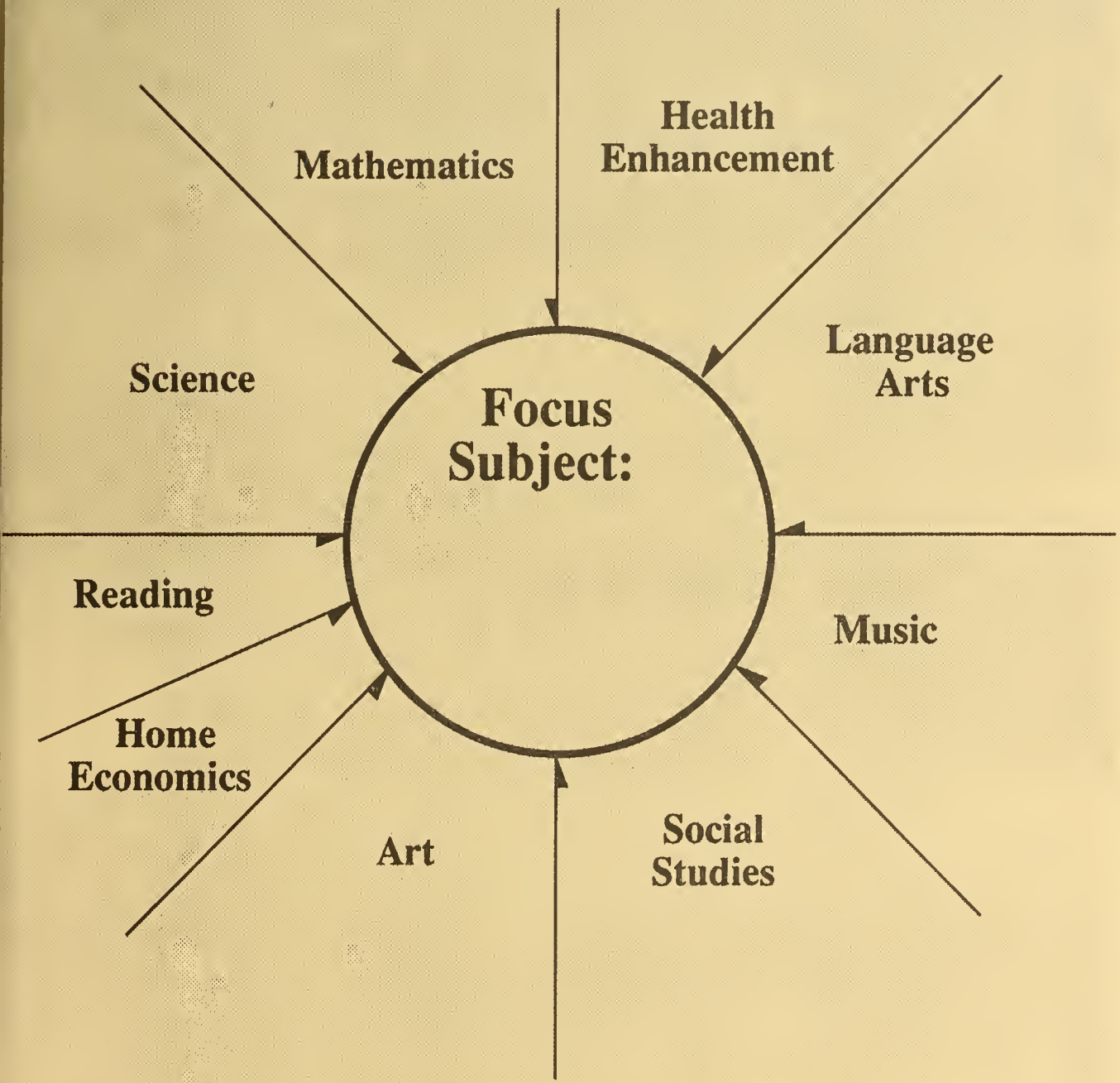
We need to avoid both the hodgepodge syndrome and the tunnel approach. Research suggests that best results are derived from a course that keeps its eye on the basic context of the discipline, while integrating contextual information, settings, and relationships as they emerge naturally and logically.

BARRIERS TO CONNECTED CURRICULUM

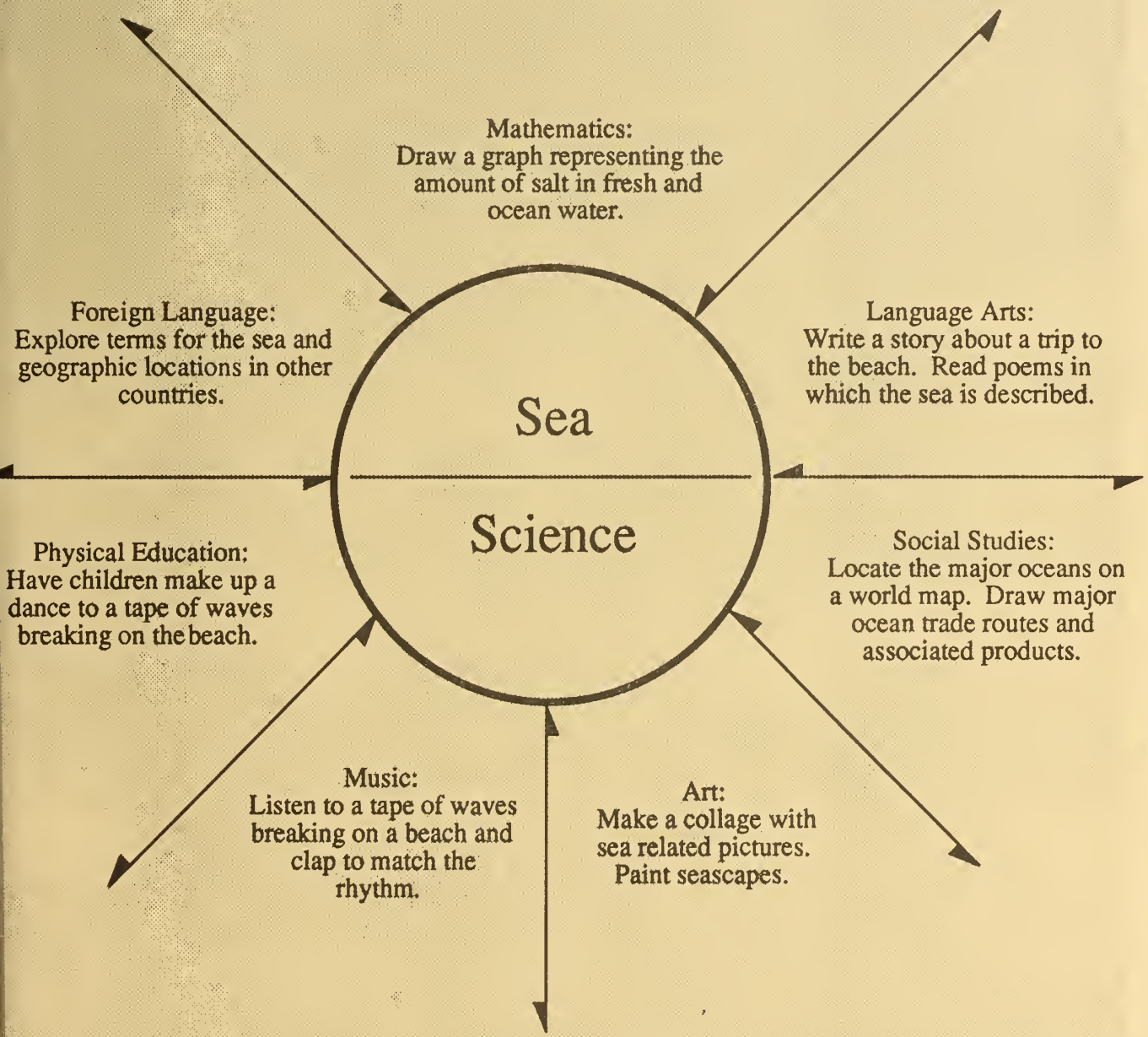
- **Teachers uncomfortable with material out of their field.**

- **Teacher's area of expertise perceived as secondary/undervalued/truncated because of pressures of time-sharing.**

A PLANNING WHEEL FOR MAKING CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS



A Planning Wheel for Making Curriculum Connections


Mathematics:
Draw a graph representing the amount of salt in fresh and ocean water.
Foreign Language:
Explore terms for the sea and geographic locations in other countries.
Language Arts:
Write a story about a trip to the beach. Read poems in which the sea is described.
Sea
Science
Physical Education:
Have children make up a dance to a tape of waves breaking on the beach.
Social Studies:
Locate the major oceans on a world map. Draw major ocean trade routes and associated products.
Music:
Listen to a tape of waves breaking on a beach and clap to match the rhythm.
Art:
Make a collage with sea related pictures. Paint seascapes.

THE PLANNING WHEEL

An organizer that can be used to:

- Connect existing curricula
- Design new curricula
- Plan units or single lessons
- Involve students in making connections

THE PLANNING WHEEL

An organizer that can be used by:

- A grade-level team to plan together
- An individual teacher to plan a lesson or a unit
- A curriculum planning group to incorporate suggestions and ideas for connections into the curriculum document.

COMPONENTS NEEDED TO MAKE CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- **Curriculum design, development, and implementation**
- **Staff development**
- **Supervisory focus**
- **Administrative support**
- **Time**
- **Patience**

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